Scandal by Officials of Doordarshan

1600. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI has been inquiring about an alleged unscheduled visit made by Doordarshan officials to the Island in 1997-98, as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated 2nd June, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of the scandal made by the officials of the Doordarshan; and

(c) the action Government propose to take against the officials involved in the scandal?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Payment of advertisement bills by DAVP

1601. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of advertisement bills payable by DAVP to the newspapers and periodicals till 31st March, 2001; and

(b) the reasons for delaying or for not making the payments?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) As on 31.03.2001, bills amounting to Rs. 7,94,68,791/- only were pending with the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) for payment.

(b) The clearance of bills is a continuous process. One of the reasons for delaying/not making payments is due to non-availability of funds from client Ministries/Departments.

Dropping of DD Educational Programmes

1602. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move on the part of Doordarshan to delete educational programmes, such as UGC, IGNOU etc.;

(b) whether Government have been asked to constitute an independent regulator for airwaves by any judgement;